REMARKS

A final Office Action was mailed on September, 2003. Claims 1 – 17 are currently

pending in the application, with claim 18 having been previously withdrawn from consideration.

With this Response, Applicant amends claim 1 and cancels claim 18 without prejudice or

disclaimer. No new matter is introduced.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S.

Patent No. 5,678,054 to Shibata in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,078,914 to Redfern and U.S. Patent

No. 6,112,215 to Kaply. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Shibata in view of Redfern and U.S. Patent No. 5,635,814 to Luciw. Claims 3, 6 – 8 and 14 – 17

are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibata in view of Redfern and

Microsoft Bookshelf Basics Edition (Bookshelf). Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as

being unpatentable over Shibata in view of Redfern and U.S. Patent no. 6,201,894 to Saito.

Claims 9 – 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibata in view

of Redfern, U.S. Patent No. 4,654,873 to Fujisawa et al. and U.S Patent No. 5,774,859 to Houser

et al. As claims 2 – 17 depend from independent claim 1, although not specifically recited in the

rejection, Applicant assumes that Kaply is applied to the rejections of claims 2 – 17 as well.

Applicant amends claim 1 to clarify the nature of his invention, and respectfully traverses these

rejections.

In independent claim 1, Applicant discloses an information entry apparatus comprising:

a) an alphanumeric entry unit for entering an alphanumeric string, a display unit for displaying

keywords in a plurality of corresponding fields, b) a word dictionary for storing a plurality of

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keywords corresponding to the fields and storing a plurality of similar words for deducing keywords, and c) an alphanumeric information processing unit for cutting out predetermined word strings from the entered alphanumeric string, searching through the word dictionary by the cut out words, extracting a corresponding group of keywords from a dictionary column for which matches are obtained by comparison with keywords of the dictionary or similar words, and displaying the extracted group of keywords all at once in the plurality of associated and corresponding fields of the display unit (see, e.g., Applicant's FIG. 1).

For example, Applicant's FIG. 11A illustrates a dictionary table for the "case name" field of FIG. 10A. The table of FIG. 11A lists keywords to be associated with similar word strings for the field "case name". As claimed in claim 1, and with reference to FIG. 11A, Applicant's alphanumeric information processing unit operates for example to extract a word string from an entered alphanumeric string (for example, "breaking and entering"), to search the similar word strings in each of the dictionary tables for the various display screen fields, and upon finding a match in on of these dictionary tables, to display an associated keyword ("theft") in the associated display screen field ("case name").

Shibata discloses a data searching device including a keyboard for entering a data string, a display unit, primary and secondary memory areas, and a selector for selecting secondary data for display when the entered string matches associated primary data. The Examiner argues that Shibata's primary and secondary memory areas are equivalent to Applicant's word dictionary. The Examiner, however, acknowledges that Shibata fails to disclose Applicant's alphanumeric an alphanumeric information processing unit for cutting out predetermined word strings from the entered alphanumeric string, searching through the word dictionary by the cut out words, extracting a corresponding group of keywords from a dictionary column for which matches are obtained by comparison with keywords of the dictionary or similar words, and displaying the

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~~corresponding~~ extracted group of keywords all at once in the plurality· of associated and corresponding fields of the display unitinformation processing unit for cutting out strings from the entered string before searching the data dictionary, and suggests that Redfern teaches such a limitation.

Redfern discloses a natural language meta-search system and method, the system employing search engines capable of extracting relevant terms from a natural language query (see, e.g., column 3, lines 9 – 15 of Redfern). However, neither Shibata nor Redfern teach or suggest the Applicant's claimed dictionary feature for associating keywords with display screen fields, or Applicant's alphanumeric processing unit feature for extracting and displaying corresponding keywords on the display in their associated and corresponding fields.

The Examiner acknowledges that "[n]either Shibata [nor] Redfern explicitly disclose associating keywords with display screen fields and extracting and displaying corresponding keywords on the display in their associated and corresponding fields". However, the Examiner suggests that this limitation it taught by Kaply.

Kaply discloses a system for selecting repetitively used data strings for entry in an interactive display interface (see, e.g., abstract of Kaply). As described by the Examiner, Kaply teaches "a user, who can point out and transfer appropriate selected data entries from the menu to appropriate fields to produce the completed data entry screen" (with reference to FIG. 5 and column 5, lines 34 – 45 of Kaply).

As disclosed in independent claim 1, Applicant's claimed apparatus includes a word dictionary for storing a plurality of keywords corresponding to the plurality of fields, and an alphanumeric information processing unit for cutting out predetermined word strings from an entered alphanumeric string, searching through the word dictionary and extracting a corresponding group of keywords from a dictionary column for which matches are obtained by

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comparison with keywords of the dictionary or similar words, and displaying the extracted group of keywords all at once in the plurality of associated and corresponding fields of the display unit.

In sharp contrast to Applicant's invention, Kaply fails to disclose a database that associates keywords with display fields, and in effect teaches away from Applicant's approach by allowing the user to select repetitively-used data strings from a single dictionary menu unassociated with identified fields, and place selected data strings flexibly in any field selected by the user. In other words, unlike Applicant's claimed invention, the device of Kaply fails to assist the user in both identifying keywords for extracted data strings, and then displaying the identified keywords for selection by the use only in corresponding data fields.

In summary, Applicant respectfully submits that none of Shibata, Redfern and Kaply, either alone or in combination, disclose or otherwise suggests features of Applicant's claimed information entry apparatus, for example, including Applicant's claimed "word dictionary for storing a plurality of keywords corresponding to the plurality of fields and a plurality of similar words for deducing those keywords linked with each of those keywords". In addition, none of Luciw, Bookshelf, Saito, Fujisawa or Houser disclose these features of Applicant's claimed invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 is not made obvious by the combination of Shibata, Redfern and Kaply, and is therefore in condition for allowance. As claims 2 – 17 depend from allowable claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2 – 17 also stand in condition for allowance for at least this reason.

Applicant further submits that claim 5 is allowable on alternate grounds. Claim 5 claims the information entry apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a form dictionary for storing a plurality of form information corresponding to a plurality of display formats, each having one or more associated keywords, wherein the alphanumeric information processing unit refers to the

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form dictionary in order to select a second screen as identified by a keyword displayed on the first screen (see, e.g., Applicant's FIG 13B for an illustration of the form dictionary).

The Examiner acknowledges that Shibata and Redfern fail to disclose Applicant's claim form dictionary, and introduces Saito for disclosing this limitation. Saito discloses a method for extracting regions from an original image having a predetermined format (see, e.g., columns 2, lines 27 – 39 and claim 2 of Saito). Formatting associated with a region of the image is identified by reference to format information stored in a format dictionary. Unlike Applicant's claimed invention, Saito does not teach selecting a second display screen for display based on a form dictionary that matches a predetermined keyword displayed on a first display screen to a display format corresponding to the form information presented on the second screen. Kaply also fails to disclose or suggest this feature.

CONCLUSION

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 1 – 17, consisting of independent claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom, is in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

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